



Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

salon.com



29



488



1,114



Roger Sollenberger Retweeted



Anne Champion @AnneChampion1 · 2h

Don't blame journalists for the consequences of your participation in the insurrection at the US Capitol.

[#firstamendment](#)



Roger Sollenberger @Soll... · 2h

Public notice to cease & desist
@PaulDavis_29

GIBSON DUNN

January 22, 2021

VIA US MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL.

Paul M. Davis

Re: Your defamatory statements regarding Roger Sollenberger

Dear Mr. Davis:

I write on behalf of journalist Roger Sollenberger to demand that you immediately cease and desist making defamatory statements regarding Mr. Sollenberger, and that you cease and desist threatening him with baseless litigation.

In particular, on January 6, 2021, Mr. Sollenberger removed video from your own public Instagram account denouncing your participation in the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. You admitted this was your own video when, following this tweet, on January 7, 2021, you claimed in a Facebook post that you were "I feel for peacefully protesting at the U.S. Capitol after someone selectively edited my Instagram story and said it is a 'valued left-wing journalist' who selectively edited my Instagram story and publicly defamed me on Twitter by making the categorically false statement that I was 'staging a coup'." To the extent your statement to "a valued left-wing journalist" refers to Mr. Sollenberger, the post is false and defamatory in several respects. First, Mr. Sollenberger is not a "valued left-wing journalist," and second, he did not "selectively edit" your Instagram story before tweeting it (or indeed, edit it at all). These statements in your Facebook post are thus false and misleading and should be removed.

As for your assertion that the statement that you were denying "staging a coup" was "categorically false," your presence at the U.S. Capitol, as documented in your own videos, in which you can be seen in a crowd of rioters, demanding to "open the doors," and "setting machines," and stating "We are all trying to get into the Capitol to stop this," on the day the results of the 2020 Presidential election were being debated, speaks for itself. You are

Multiple readers have described the events leading up to and including the violent takeover of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 as an attempted coup. (See e.g., Christopher Ingraham, Five experts define the deadly riot and protest at the U.S. Capitol, *Wash. Post*, Jan. 12, 2021 (quoting range of 'well-known' scholars); a host of other commentators.)

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Paul M. Davis
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video, which you posted to Instagram, has a caption stating, "You don't hide the evidence unless you're guilty. Pretty simple. We will not let this go." Additional video you posted to your public Instagram shows you among a group of individuals being physically repelled away from the U.S. Capitol by law enforcement officers in riot gear, whom you claimed in captions had "been gassed and pushed to down the stairs," and admitted "I'd get a little rowdy when they pushed us down the stairs." That was a flash bang that blew up next to me.

In your Facebook post, you further blame the loss of your job on this unnamed "valued left-wing journalist." It is more than apparent that whatever harm you claim to have suffered was not the result of action taken by any journalist, but the result of your own decision to participate in the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Truthful reporting on matters of public interest is never defamatory. (See e.g., *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 271 (1964).) Your former employer also acknowledged in an internal email that they had conducted an investigation into the situation before they fired you.

Accordingly, to the extent your statement that you are "very much looking forward to clearing my name and being made whole by all persons who publicly defended me in this manner" is meant as a threat of litigation against Mr. Sollenberger, please be aware that this threat is neither any more believable nor that Mr. Sollenberger will defend himself to the fullest extent of the law. Mr. Sollenberger reserves all rights.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Anne Champion
Anne Champion

U.S. Capitol: House Bill, No. 2 that a Coup attempt. (See e.g., *Public Citizen*, (Jan. 12, 2021) (explaining why the events leading up to and including the January 6, 2021 siege of the U.S. Capitol were an attempted coup).)



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Roger Sollenberger @Sollenb... · 2h

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